

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

The applicant respectfully requests that the specification be amended as follows:

[0021] FIG. 1 illustrates an embodiment 100 of a pipe cleaning device shown separately from the machine on which it is installed. A retaining mechanism 102 entraps a flexible discus wiper 104 having planar surfaces 104-P. As shown in FIG. 1, the flexible discus wiper 104 comprises a disk having an aperture therethrough, the circumference of the aperture being defined by the inside edge of the disk. A section of pipe 106 is shown approaching the piper cleaner. Generally, the pipe sections 106 being fused by the pipe fusion machine, described in greater detail below, have corresponding diameters, wherein the diameter of the aperture of the flexible discus wiper 104 is slightly less than the corresponding diameters of the pipe sections 106 such that, as the pipe sections 106 pass through the retaining mechanism 102, the outer surface of each pipe section 106 is cleaned of debris by the wiper 104.

[0022] The retaining mechanism 102 is composed of a first discus plate 108 and a second discus plate 110, each having, with respect to the retaining mechanism 102, an interior surface and an exterior surface. As shown in the Figures, it is to be understood that the term “discus” when used herein means resembling a flat circular plate. These first and second discus plates 108, 110 typically are fabricated from steel, although other suitable materials may be used. The interior and exterior surfaces of the first and second discus plates 108, 110 and the planar surfaces of the flexible discus wiper 104 are in a parallel configuration, with the wiper 104 between the interior surface of the first discus plate 108 and the interior surface of the second discus plate 110. Four independent spacers 112, 114, 116, and 118 separate the two plates 108 and 110. One or more of the spacers may be removable to replace the wiper 104. More particularly, a plurality of impendent spacers 112, 114, 116, and 118 are affixed to the respective interior surfaces of the first and second discus plates 108, 110, wherein the spacers connect and separate the two discus plates 108, 110 and are sized and positioned to allow the flexible discus wiper 104 to be held between the respective interior surfaces of the two plates 108, 110. The first plate 108 and second plate 110 would typically be fabricated from steel, although other suitable materials may be used.